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Biography

Peter S. Hoff

President, The University of Maine

Peter S. Hoff became the 17th president of the University of Maine on Aug. 1, 1997. He is now the longest-serving UMaine president since 1965.

Upon graduating with honors from his home state flagship university, the University of Wisconsin, he attended graduate school at Stanford, earning an M.A. in English and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in English and Humanities in four years. His decision to return to Wisconsin and help establish a new university (UW-Parkside, in Kenosha) turned out to be pivotal to his career, because of the leadership opportunities it presented.

As a professor in Wisconsin for 17 years, he founded and chaired the Honors Program in his first year, was a department chair by his third year, and established an interdisciplinary humanities program the next year. On earning tenure and promotion, he turned his attention to faculty development at the statewide level and soon found himself chairing the faculty senate and faculty executive committee, responsibilities that led to full-time administration.

Hoff has written and spoken extensively on British satiric fiction, the modern impressionist novel, teaching excellence, and strategic planning. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Beta Kappa honor societies, and has won awards for teaching excellence. He was honored by *Converge* Magazine as one of 26 "Shapers of our Future, 2000." He served as chief academic officer at Indiana University Southeast, the University System of Georgia, and the California State University.

Under his leadership, UMaine has grown from 8,900 to more than 11,200 students. It has achieved the top Carnegie classification--Doctoral Research-Extensive. UMaine has enjoyed increased budgetary support from the state and has attracted more support from private donors than at any previous time in UMaine history. Hoff has presided over more than \$150 million in campus renovations and new construction. In fulfilling his pledge to visit every high school in the state, he has met with thousands of students, parents, and teachers at more than 120 different high schools, demonstrating the university's engagement with the communities of the state and its position as Maine's college of choice.

A French horn player, Hoff has performed with university and community orchestras in six different states. He occasionally plays his horn with university groups, ranging from the university orchestra to the marching band to the commencement players. Having played three varsity sports in high school, he stays active by playing golf, running, and participating in the Maine Day Oozeball tournament.

His wife, Dianne, an assistant professor of educational leadership, has won awards for her teaching and for her work as principal of a National School of Excellence in Georgia and a unique public school of performing arts in California. She writes on leadership and cultural diversity, and is the author of a book, *Legal Issues for Maine Educators*. Along with their Siberian Husky, Jenny, and their marmalade cat, Happy, the Hoff's reside in the President's House on the Orono campus. They enjoy visiting--and being visited by--their three children: Marc, a lawyer with the U.S. Patent Office; Jay, a mechanical engineering student at UMaine; and Lara, a trombonist studying music at the University of Minnesota.